



Alaska Farm Reporter



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July 2, 2018

ALASKA JUNE ACREAGE REPORT

Alaska Area Planted and Harvested by Crop: 2017 and 2018

| Crop ^{1/} | Area planted | | Area harvested | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------|----------------|--------------------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 ^{2/} |
| | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) |
| Barley ^{3/} | 5,500 | 5,000 | 5,200 | 4,000 |
| Potatoes ^{4/} | 450 | 400 | 430 | 400 |
| Hay, all | (NA) | (NA) | 21,000 | 23,000 |

(NA) Not available. 1/ Oat estimates discontinued in 2018. 2/ Forecasted. 3/ Barley acreage rounded to nearest thousand acres beginning in 2018. 4/ Potatoes rounded to the nearest 100 acres beginning in 2018.

More normal growing conditions this spring have most crops in good condition and on schedule. Hay harvest was underway and vegetables are for sale at farmers markets and will soon be more available in grocery stores.

Barley planted for all purposes in Alaska is estimated at 5,000 acres in 2018, down from the 5,500 acres planted in 2017. The forecast for acres harvested for grain was 4,000 acres, down from the actual harvested acres in 2016. On June 24th the condition of the barley crop was rated as 25% fair, 50% good, 25% excellent. The crop was reported as 100% pre-boot. Last year at this time 100% of the crop was pre-boot; the five year average for that date is 90% pre-boot, 10% in-boot.

Potato growers planted an estimated 400 acres in 2018, compared with 450 acres last year. Growers are forecast to harvest 400 acres of potatoes in 2018. On June 25th the crop was 55% emerged. The 5 year average for that date is 83% emerged.

All hay is intended to be harvested from 23,000 acres in 2018. This is up from the 21,000 acres that were actually harvested in 2017. On June 25th the condition of the hay crop was rated as 10% fair, 70% good, 20% excellent. First cutting hay harvest was reported as 5% complete. The 5 year average for that date is 15% harvested.

Thank you to all the Alaskan farmers and ranchers who responded to the June Acreage Survey. Your time and help in producing this report is appreciated.

U.S. JUNE ACREAGE REPORT

Barley: Producers seeded 2.55 million acres of barley for the 2018 crop year, up 3 percent from the previous year. Harvested area, forecast at 2.05 million acres, is up 5 percent from 2017. In Montana, producers seeded 730,000 acres of barley, down 5 percent from the previous year.

Twenty-eight percent of the Nation's barley acreage had reached the heading stage by June 24, three percentage points ahead of the previous year but 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average. On June 24, eighty-three percent of the Nation's barley acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, 23 percentage points above the same time the previous year.

Estimates began in June 2018 for Kansas, Maine, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Hay: Producers intend to harvest 55.1 million acres of all hay in 2018, up 2 percent from 2017. If realized, this will represent the highest total hay harvested area since 2014. The increase in acreage is primarily due to a 5 percent increase in alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures acreage compared to 2017; however, all other hay (excluding alfalfa) is also up 1 percent. Producers in the Upper Midwest and Northern Plains are optimistic about harvesting more acres than last year to replenish hay stocks.

Record lows, for all hay harvested area, are expected in California, Illinois, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island in 2018. Meanwhile, Alaska is expecting a record high acreage.

Summer potatoes: Growers planted an estimated 64,200 acres of summer potatoes in 2018, down 6 percent from 2017. Harvested area is forecast at 61,500 acres, 6 percent below 2017.

Fall potatoes: Growers planted an estimated 911,700 acres of fall potatoes, up slightly from 2017. Harvested area is forecast at 904,400 acres, slightly above 2017.

Idaho's winter weather varied across the State and planting was slow to start. As of June 24, ninety-six percent of the potato crop had emerged, slightly behind the 5-year average of 97 percent. Winter and spring precipitation in Washington was good. As of June 24, the crop had emerged, and reported condition was 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 84 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. North Dakota's planting began in early May, behind the 2017 pace and the 5-year average, but advanced ahead of the average half-way through planting season. Ninety-eight percent of the crop had emerged as of June 24, one percentage point behind the previous year.

Oats: Area seeded to oats for the 2018 crop year is estimated at 2.89 million acres, up 12 percent from 2017. Compared with last year, planted acreage is up or unchanged in 23 of the 28 major producing States. Increases of 20,000 acres or more are estimated in Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. Area for harvest, forecast at 1.01 million acres, is up 26 percent from 2017.

Nationally, oat producers had seeded 26 percent of this year's acreage by April 1, two percentage points ahead of last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Producers had seeded 56 percent of this year's acreage by May 6, twenty-one percentage points behind last year and 18 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Eighty-two percent of the oat acreage was emerged by May 27, eight percentage points behind last year and 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average. As of June 24, seventy-two percent of the oat acreage was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 54 percent rated in these two categories at the same time last year.

The complete Acreage report, which was released June 29th, can be found at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/Acre/Acre-06-29-2018.pdf>